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◦ AN UNDIVIDED LIFE – LIVING THE MÖBIUS STRIP

Graham Buxton

CoroUniting Church 14 February 2021

The 'Romero prayer'

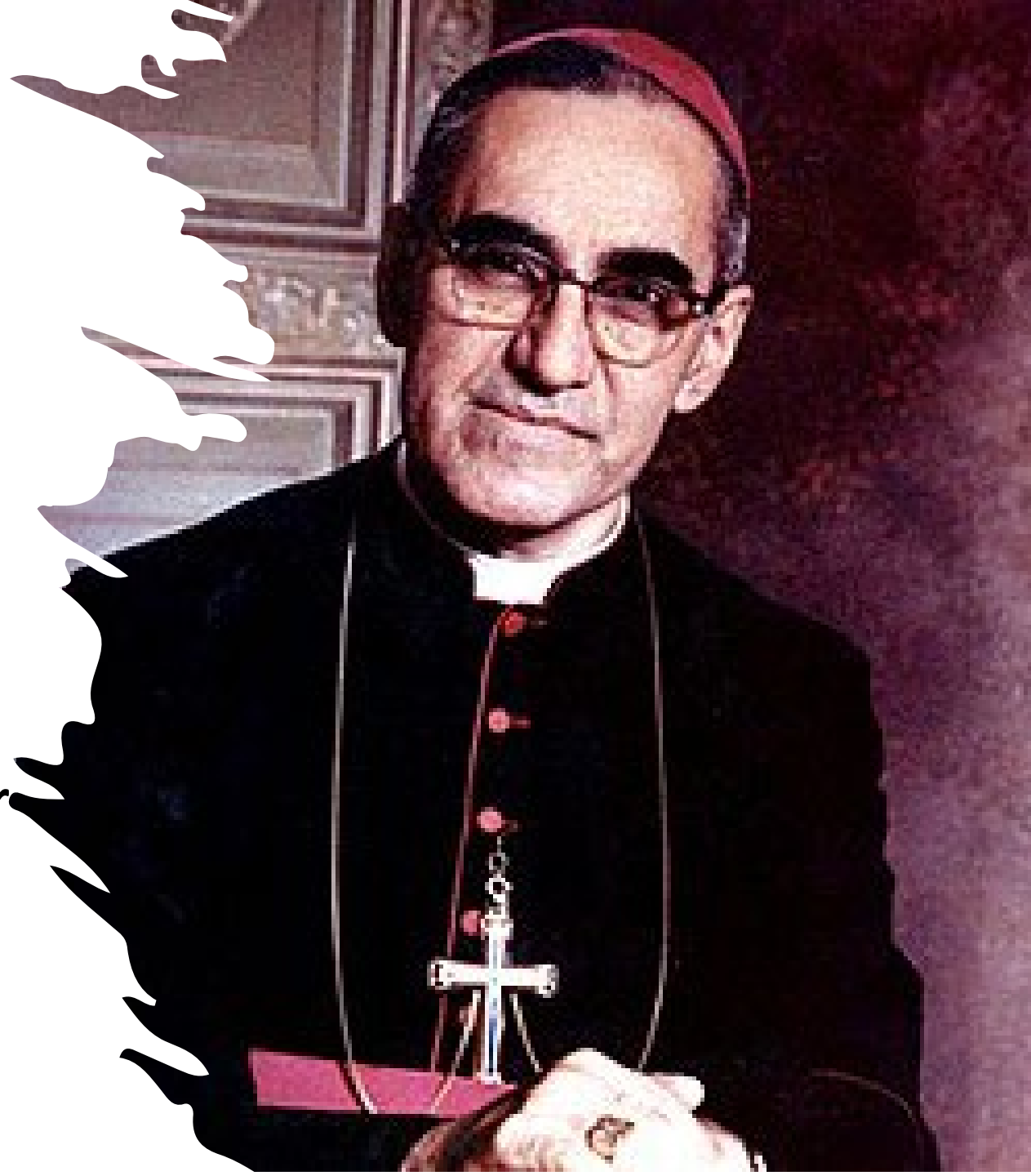
... We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

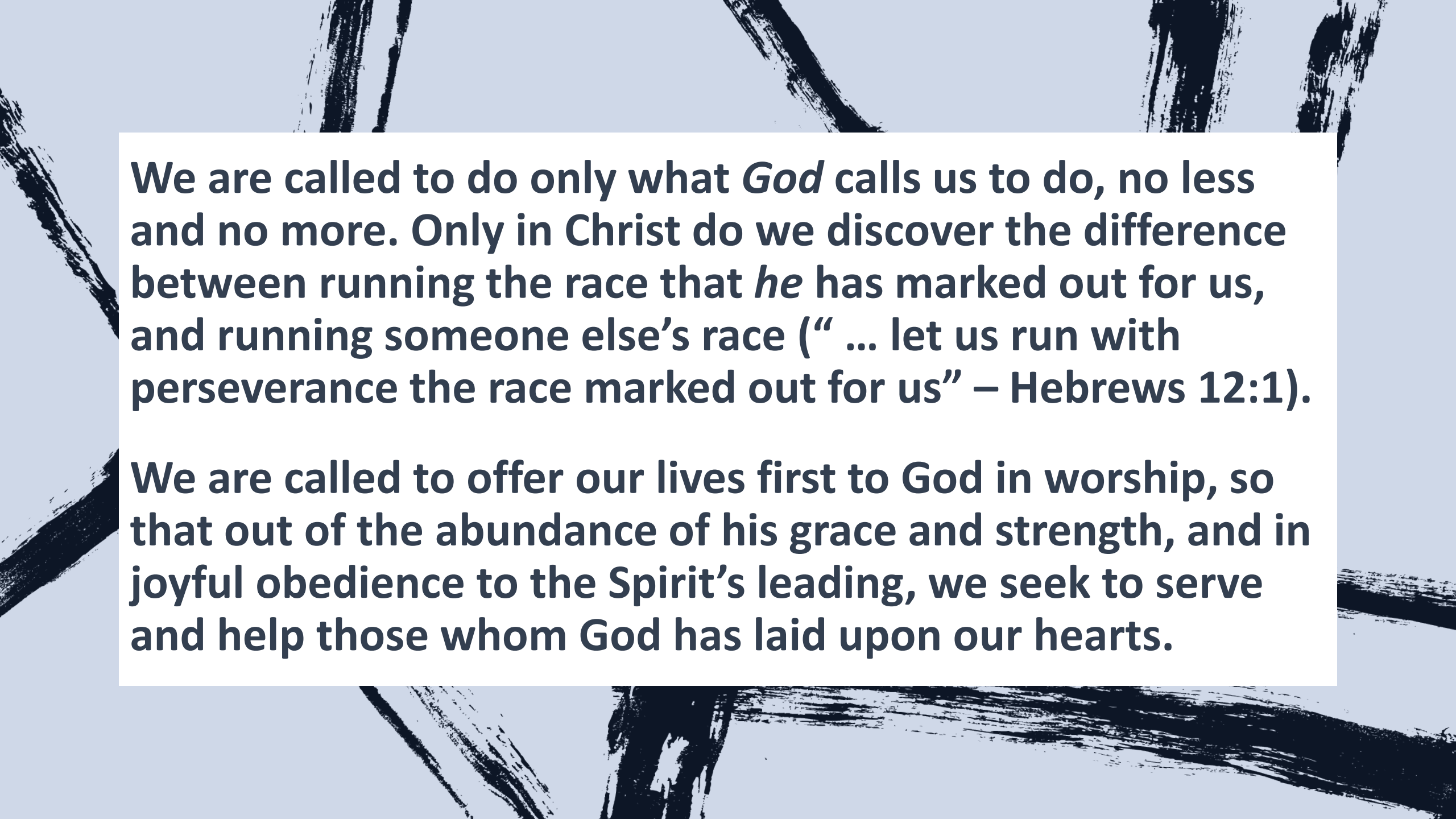
We are prophets of a future not our own.



Worship comes before service

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name.**



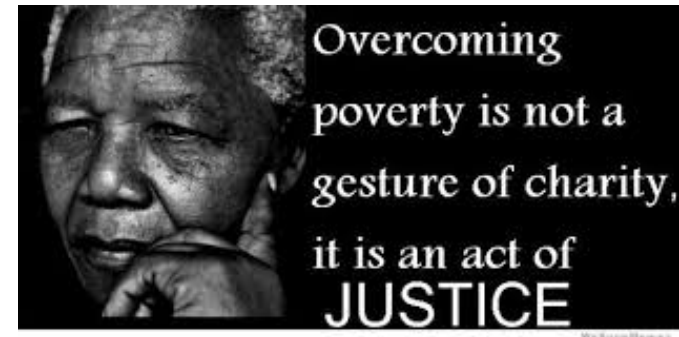


We are called to do only what *God* calls us to do, no less and no more. Only in Christ do we discover the difference between running the race that *he* has marked out for us, and running someone else's race (" ... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" – Hebrews 12:1).

We are called to offer our lives first to God in worship, so that out of the abundance of his grace and strength, and in joyful obedience to the Spirit's leading, we seek to serve and help those whom God has laid upon our hearts.

Some of the areas in which people here are engaged include

Befriending and advocating for refugees
Working for indigenous reconciliation
Advocating for justice for the unborn
Overturning legal miscarriages of justice
Helping those who are struggling with poverty
Advocating for ethnic injustice overseas
Visiting and supporting prisoners and their families





Getting involved with individual need and getting involved in structural change are both part of the calling of the church in its ministry in the world

The Samaritan limited his work to the beaten man, and met the need with merciful action, while the underlying problem of robbery and violence still remained

Moses and Aaron didn't merely help one person escape from slavery: rather, directed and empowered by God, they took bold action to bring an end to the slavery of God's people



**Prayer is a powerful spiritual
weapon against injustice**

**How apartheid
was dismantled**



Michael Cassidy

There was a tremendous amount of prayer went on through this whole process. I believe that when the battle is won, as it were, in the heavenlies, you begin to see the victories take place on the ground. Strongholds are pulled down and thoughts are brought captive to Christ, and this has a tremendous effect finally on the minds and the thinking of people, and of people in power. The pressures were building up to a tremendous degree, but I think prayer was a key thing.

Prayer is a powerful spiritual weapon against injustice



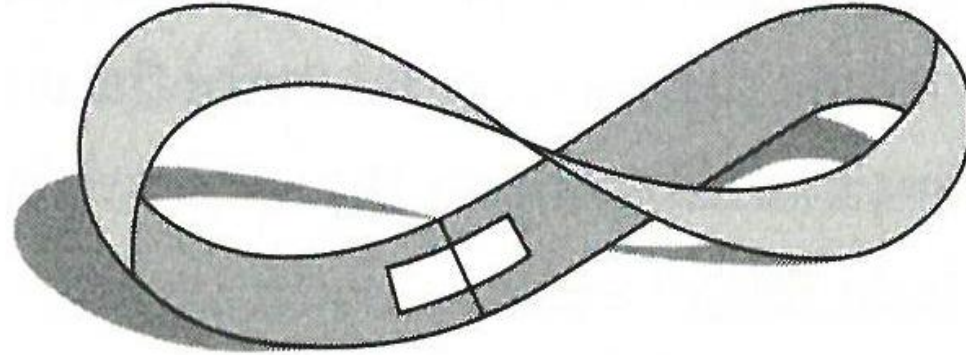
Michael Cassidy

How apartheid was dismantled

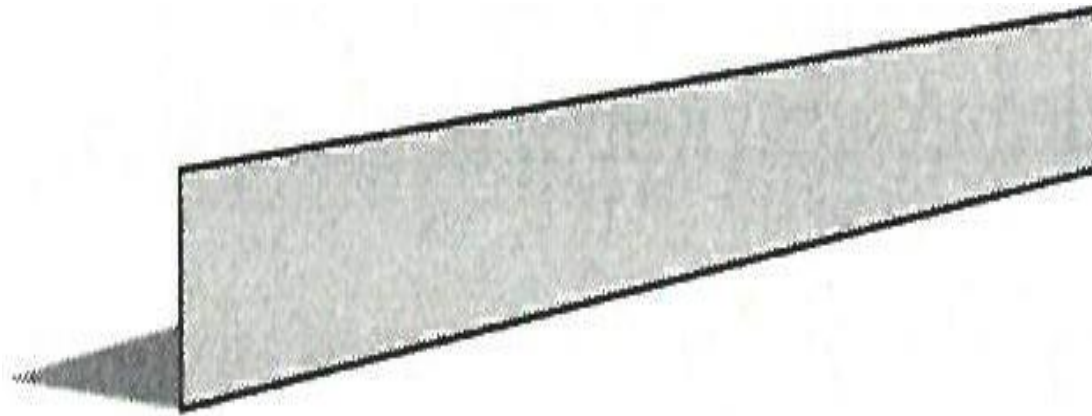
In 1993, leading up to 1994, we had a two year chain of prayer going 24/7, round the clock for two years. Our leaders were the most prayed for, I believe, in the world. Maybe nothing like that had ever quite happened. This led their minds to shift until finally they realised, when de Klerk (that's F W de Klerk, the President of South Africa) saw the writing on the wall, that they had to release Mandela, un-ban the liberation movements, remove the army from the townships, and institute non-racial democratic elections.

That's how it all happened, but prayer, I think, was the basis of all of that.

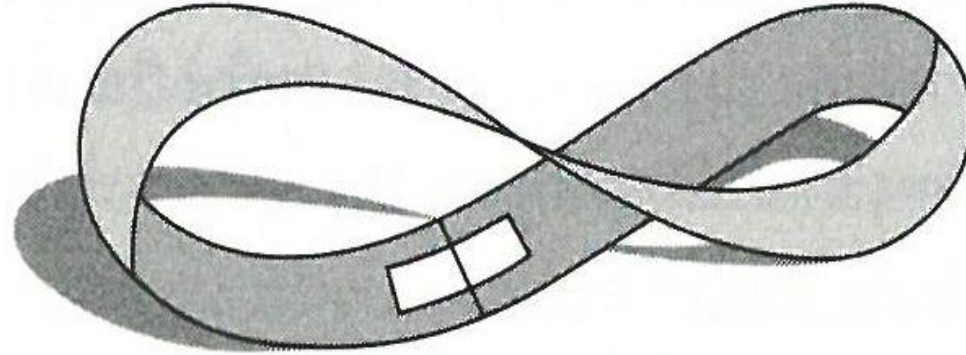
The Möbius strip and an undivided life

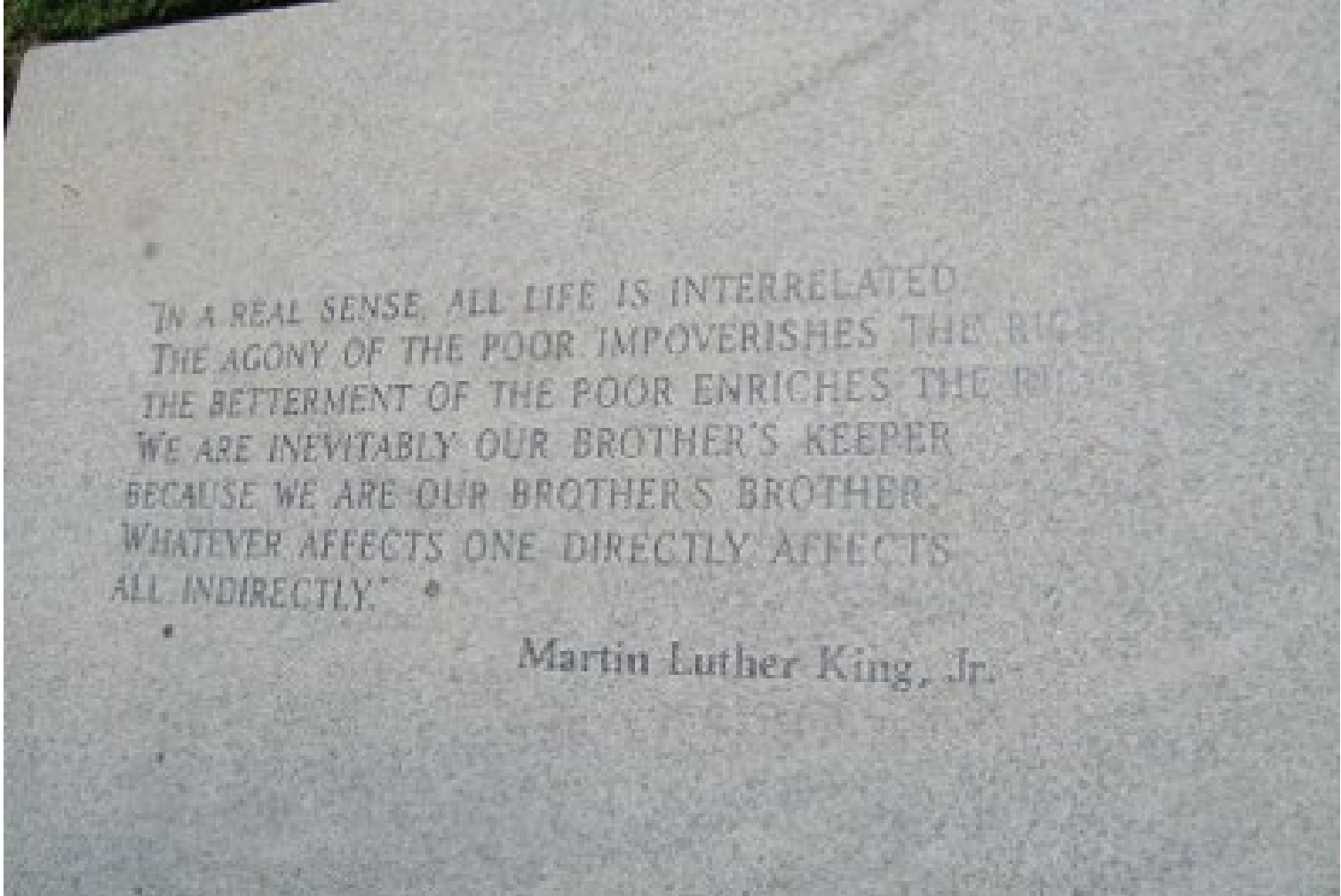


The Möbius strip and an undivided life



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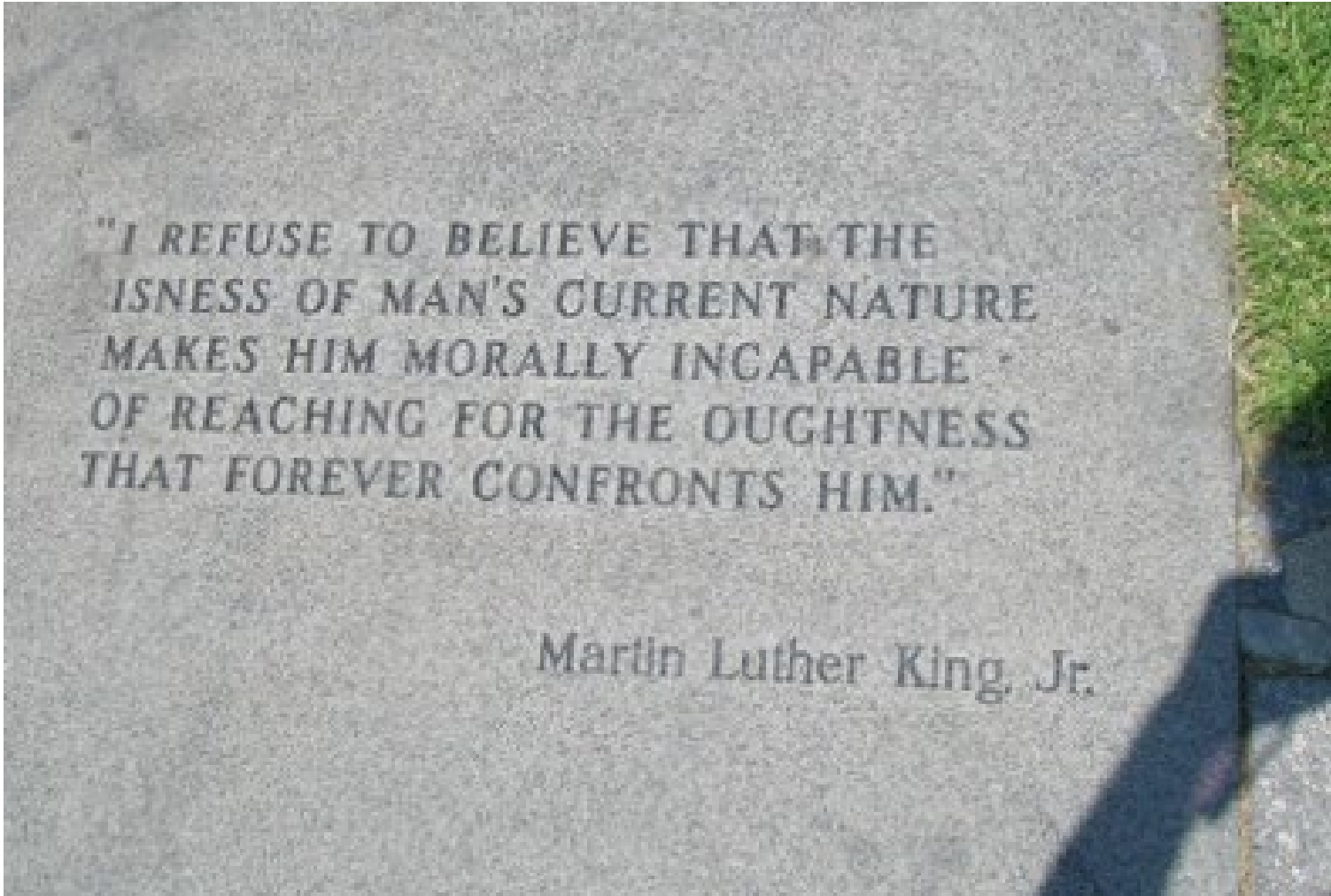


A photograph of a light-colored stone plaque with a quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. The text is engraved in a serif font. The quote is: "IN A REAL SENSE, ALL LIFE IS INTERRELATED. THE AGONY OF THE POOR IMPOVERISHES THE RICH. THE BETTERMENT OF THE POOR ENRICHES THE RICH. WE ARE INEVITABLY OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER BECAUSE WE ARE OUR BROTHER'S BROTHER. WHATEVER AFFECTS ONE DIRECTLY AFFECTS ALL INDIRECTLY." There is a small decorative dot at the end of the quote. The plaque is set against a dark green background.

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Martin Luther King, Jr.

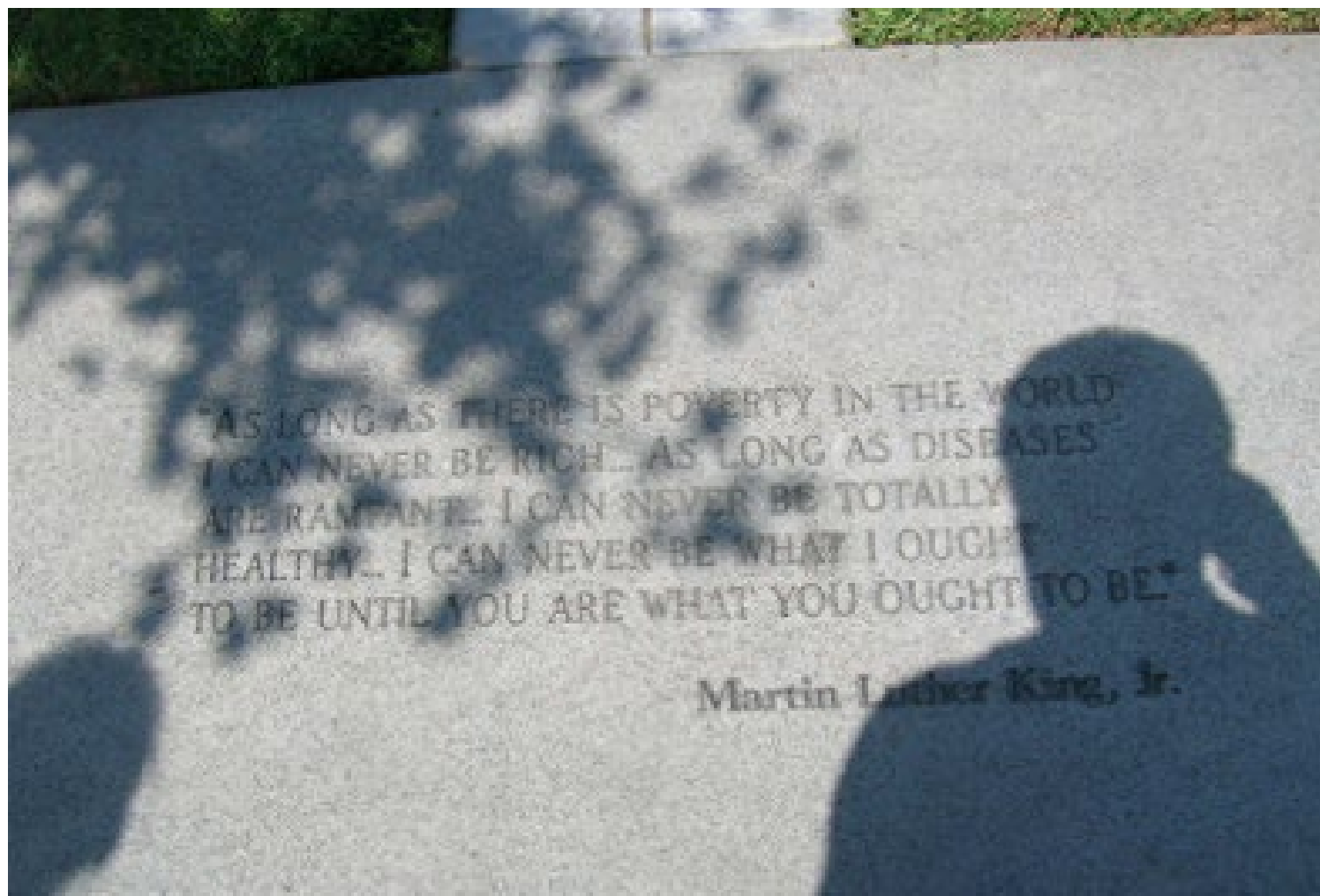
On Martin
Luther King
Promenade
in San Diego

A photograph of a paved path, likely a promenade, with a quote engraved on it. The path is made of light-colored gravel or small stones. To the right of the path is a strip of green grass. A shadow of a person is visible on the right side of the path.

"I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE
ISNESS OF MAN'S CURRENT NATURE
MAKES HIM MORALLY INCAPABLE
OF REACHING FOR THE OUGHTNESS
THAT FOREVER CONFRONTS HIM."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Martin
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A Franciscan Blessing

- May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that we will live deeply in our hearts.
- May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people and the earth, so that we will work for justice, equity and peace.
- May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer, so that we will reach out our hands to comfort them and change their pain to joy.
- And may God bless us with the foolishness to think that we can make a difference in our world, so that we will do the things which others say cannot be done.